

# PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



## ADMINISTRATION

*By Eric Johnson*

Budget Process - Parks submittal of the FY 16/17 budget request is largely complete. After September 1, the budget is in Gov Rec (Governor's Recommended) budget phase so our ability to adjust figures will be limited. The figures below are approximate and may move up or down as we go through the legislative process. In summary, our focus will be:

Maintenance Reclassification - \$75,000 is being requested to move our Maintenance Repair Specialists (MRS) II's to a grade 33, move the Facility Supervisor I to a Facility Supervisor III, and the Facility Supervisor II to a Facility Supervisor III. This has been a long time coming and I'm cautiously optimistic it will happen. Thanks to everyone who participated in the reclassification process.

Increase Seasonal Budget to at least 2009 levels of 190,000. As we all know, reversion of seasonal dollars is unavoidable due to the time it takes to fill positions that become vacant for any reason. As a result, our base seasonal budget continues to erode until we are in the position we are in now.

Replacement Equipment of \$291,000 - This request is for several UTV's, two watercraft and multiple computers. My goal is to get our computers on a replacement schedule, so we can change them out every few years instead of every decade.  
Replacement Vehicles of \$464,000 - We received 55 new trucks in 2008, but the remaining 90 light duty trucks need replacement. Again, a replacement schedule for vehicles is needed.

Deferred Maintenance, this also referred to as Category 95 or M425 for \$593,000 - These projects were developed from the park's budget presentations, as well as the list from the academy.

We are also requesting substantial increases in training and travel budgets. Category 04 budget submittals include park requests minus the amount we were able to build into the park's base budgets last fiscal year.

I'll keep everyone up to speed on the process as we go through it. Call me if you have any questions, although I'll probably just refer you to Wilson.



## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

*By Mark Davis*

A Question 1 (Q1) bond sale was completed and State Parks received another \$1,003,000 for projects. As usual, we will use this money to leverage matching dollars from other possible sources.

The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) process is ongoing. We understand FY15 will not be much different than the last cycle. This means we may not get much out of it. Emergency type projects will likely take a front seat.

As a heads up, we're still seeing Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 333 type contracts come through that could have been faster if NRS 338 type contracts were used.

## PROJECTS COMPLETED

### **BIG BEND EROSION CONTROL AND SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS**



The beaches have been significantly restored by **Jonathan Brunjes** and his staff. The sidewalks and new CXT comfort station were completed by **Malibu Pacific Tennis Courts, Inc.** and was performed in a very timely and quality manner.

This project's design and construction was managed by **Joe Cyphers**. The total project was funded with a \$497,750 Boating access grant, \$167,917 in State Parks Q1 Bond and staff in-kind match.

## PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



## NEW ECHO CANYON CAMPGROUND

The project is approximately 80 percent complete. The access road is complete and we expect the whole project to be done by the end of August 2014. The access road was funded with \$223,000 in Q1 bond funds. The campground is funded with \$2,100,000 in Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant money. **Eric Nelson** is managing the project and is supported by **Joe Cyphers** and **Marc Lepire**.

## CAVE LAKE COMFORT STATION AND DRAINAGE REPAIRS



In the interest of expediency, the drainage site work and comfort station portions of this project were separated. The comfort station and related site work were completed by **Bison Construction**. **Marc Lepire** and **Terry Ivins** managed the construction activities.

Much of the site drainage work is complete. Because there is settling at the boat dock access area, we have issues with American for Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) authorized a portion of the grant to be used to correct this issue. Final drainage and boat dock access rehabilitation will be forthcoming. The overall project is funded by \$500 in Q1 Bond, \$7,500 in user fee overage, \$20,000 in utility fee surcharge, \$30,665.60 in pine creek funds, \$40,292.80 staff in-kind match and \$103,959 LWCF.

## KERSHAW-RYAN SHOP BUILDING



A new shop building is under construction. IT will be a wood framed structure with a stand-alone fire suppression system. No power or heat was included. A substantial amount of the work is completed except for the fire suppression system.

Funding for this project comes from \$36,000 in Category 95 funds, staff in-kind labor and \$45,000 LWCF grant money. The project was designed by **Marc Lepire** and **Blake Clark** and they are also overseeing the construction.

## WASHOE WETLANDS PUMP, MOTOR AND PIPE REPLACEMENT



This system feeds the wetlands at Washoe Lake State Park. Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) funded this project for \$99,905. The project will replace the existing collection box, pump, motor and some piping.

**Horizon Construction** has construction substantially underway already with only a delay while waiting for delivery of the pump and motor. We anticipate completion before the end of August 2014.





**PROJECTS BIDDING****SAND HARBOR BOAT LAUNCH PLATE EXTENSION**

The plan is to install steel plates at the base of the boat ramp and eliminate the vertical drop off. This will not solve all problems at the boat ramp nor will it necessarily allow for a longer season, but it reduce problems with boat trailers getting stuck, because they backed off the end of the ramp. The Boating Access Grant was recently approved. By the time of printing the PEN, we hope to be bidding or even onto construction. **Joe Cyphers** is managing the project with assistance from **Bob Beck** during construction. **Dana DaPolito** is managing the Tahoe Regional planning Agency (TRPA) permitting process. This project was approved by TRPA, with conditions to be met by the successful bidder. We anticipate completion of this project before October 15, 2014. This project is funded with a \$15,502 Lake Tahoe License Plate Program (LTLP) grant, matched with a Boating Access Grant in the amount of \$82,508.

**SAND HARBOR SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT, PHASE II**

We'll replace asphalt walks with concrete walks, the beach overlooks will be removed and replaced with smaller, more functional overlooks, and ADA paths to the beach will be added. **Bob Beck** designed the project and will handle construction administration with help from **Joe Cyphers**. Currently waiting on the permitting process with TRPA, ushered by **Dana Dapolito**. We anticipate bidding to commence in August with construction in late August to early September. The project is funded with \$500 in State Parks Q1 Bond, \$108,284 in Recreation Trails Grant, \$240,000 in Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) funds, \$91,805 in a LTLP Grant, and \$35,000 in donated funds through the Tahoe Fund. The total estimated project cost is \$475,588 for phase I and II combined.

**DESIGN PROJECTS****BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO LAGOON SHEET PILING AND DREDGING**

**Joe Cyphers** made a visit to Big Bend to do some underwater survey work and determine how much dredging is needed. He is working on construction documents for the sheet piling and dredging that will go out to bid in the early fall. Construction should commence sometime in the month of December when water levels are lowest. **Joe Cyphers** will oversee construction for this part of the work. The total project is funded with a \$497,750 Boating Access Grant, \$167,917 in State Parks Q1 Bond and staff in-kind match.

**OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT, HISTORIC MUSEUM ADOBE REHABILITATION**

Specialty historic masonry consultants have been secured by the State Public Work Division (SPWD). Design is underway. Construction may be postponed to allow the rehabilitation of the adobe and roof at the same time. **Mark Davis** is coordinating the project with SPWD and assistance from

**Jamin Hunter** and **Russ Dapsauski**. It is wholly funded through the SPWD 2013 CIP funds of \$159,583.

**LAKE TAHOE, BACK COUNTRY, RED HOUSE STRUCTURAL STABILIZATION**

The **Dube' Group** (architect consultant) is currently designing the stabilization project. Due to limited grant funding availability, the project may be performed in three phases. The building was not conventionally constructed. It is a "Box" frame structure, meaning the siding is the frame of the building. This will add significant complexity to the restoration process. The project is funded with \$20,000 in a 2013 Historic Preservation Fund Grant (through SHPO), \$5,000 in a Thunderbird Foundation grant, Dube Group in-kind donation of \$1,250 and State Park Category 07 funds in the amount of \$3,444 for a total project budget of \$29,694. The project is being managed by **Dana DaPolito**, EIP Coordinator with park staff and P&D assistance.

**SPRING VALLEY POWER REPLACEMENT (DESIGN THROUGH CONSTRUCTION)**

This project is currently at "Bid Documents" phase. The schedule for the project has been moved up and we are currently reviewing construction documents, expecting to bid the project in August. This project is funded with \$1,625,362 in CIP dollars and State Parks Q1 bond money in the amount of \$350,000. **Cliff Davidow** is the SPWD Project Manager. **Mark Davis** is currently managing the project. At the time of construction, project management may be handed over to **Joe Cyphers**, **Blake Clark** or region staff.

**VALLEY OF FIRE EAST AND WEST ENTRANCE PAY KIOSKS AND UNDERGROUND POWER**

This project is gaining traction. We needed a utility easement through the National Park Service (NPS) to access the main power company's power lines. **Joe Cyphers** took a trip to survey the road and determine the location of the easement. With the public access and utility easement alignment completed, we can begin the process of getting authority to construct the underground power/phone lines. The project is managed by **Marc Lepire** with the assistance from **Joe Cyphers**.

**VALLEY OF FIRE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II, A NEW WELL**

**Blake Clark** has been working with a consultant to locate the new well. We hope to move forward with design in August 2014. Due to water right transfers from the existing to the new well and determining the geology of the area, we do not yet have a schedule for the balance of the work. This project is funded with \$340,000 in State Parks Q1 Bond money, \$59,220 staff in-kind match, \$351,619 LWCF grant money and \$7,522.11 in utility surcharge fees. This project is being designed by **Blake Clark** with assistance from **Joe Cyphers**. **Blake** will manage the construction of this high priority project.

**LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK (LTNSP)***By Allen Wooldridge*

As the new ranger at Sand Harbor, everyday gives new meaning to controlled chaos, especially coming over from Cave/Ward. Everyday reminds me of a Bathub Race or Fishing Derby. Park 500+ cars, clean bathrooms, handle an issue, clean bathrooms, answer questions about wildlife in the area, and clean bathrooms again. Then I look at my watch and its 4 p.m. before I realized it, and I'd better go respond to the emails that are backed up or write the PEN article. Without a doubt, we have great staff here that shows up every day to make a visitor's experience a great one. I cannot say enough about the seasonal staff that work so hard to keep up with the usage of the park. Without them, I know myself and visitors would have a much less rewarding park experience.

Although the water level has been lower than normal for us and has affected our ability to launch boats at Sand Harbor, visitors still line up bright and early to guarantee their spots on the beach. The Fourth of July showed just how coveted a picnic spot can be when we filled up by 8:30 a.m. and had to shut the parking gate. With Sand Harbor's ramp closed now, Cave Rock's ramp has been one of the few places to launch a boat and they have been very busy trying to keep up with the demand. Even with all the use, we have been able to chip away at little projects that didn't get done in spring. However, as soon as one gets crossed off, seems like a new one gets added on. Fall is around the corner and with any luck we can cross them all off!

The Wooldridges received a new family member on Friday, June 27. **Allen** managed to travel across the state and get to the hospital in time to see **Adam Jay Wooldridge** born at 7 pounds 10 ounces and 19.5 inches long.

**NORTHERN REGION****REGION HEADQUARTERS***By Bob Mergell*

Well as everyone knows, it has been an incredibly dry year and visitation at some of our water based recreation parks has been drastically effected. South Fork hasn't been effected since the reservoir isn't used for irrigation purposes. Lahontan, Rye Patch, and Wild Horse were the hardest hit.

We have had quite a bit of movement in the region lately. **Kim Clawson** left Ft. Churchill to devote her many skills to Washoe Lake (I forbid her from leaving the region, but was willing to allow her to relocate within the region). We will be looking to fill the vacancy at Ft. Churchill soon. We hired

**Ann Jayo** as the new "soon to be" commissioned ranger at South Fork. We hope she will be a good fit for our State Parks family. **Allen Wooldridge** left his position at Ward Charcoal Ovens to accept a promotion to Park Ranger III at Lake Tahoe (I normally wouldn't have allowed that defection either, but it was for a promotion, so I gave him my blessing). The application list for the Ward vacancy just came out, so we hope to fill that position soon as well.



**Scott "Scotty" Payne** and I finally got out for some long overdue park inspections and found things generally in good shape overall. We are blessed to work with so many talented people, at all levels, and people who truly care about parks. I would just like to take this opportunity to say thanks again for everything you all do on a daily basis to keep our parks looking and generally functioning the way they do. We get a lot of surveys turned

in these days and the vast majority of the comments are positive, which goes to show the visitors (our employers) are happy with the job we are doing. So on behalf of all of them, **THANK YOU ALL!**

**BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK***By Jeff Morris*

The summer season kicked off with a bang over the Memorial Day weekend and park visitors flocking to Berlin-Ichthyosaur to get a glimpse of the Nevada State Fossil and get back in time while touring the ghost town and Diana Mine. The park experienced overflow camping all weekend and tour attendance skyrocketed. The Diana mine has once again been very popular this year with the majority of tours being led by experienced guide **Todd Wheeler**. This is **Todd's** third season here and was recently promoted to the Park Tech. position. Great Job! Ranger **Robin** continues to "wow" people with his vast knowledge of the Ichthyosaurs and has recently been interviewed by such media outlets as **A&E**, **Travel Nevada**, and **Fox News**, and he will be participating in a research project this fall with the **Smithsonian Institute**.

On the natural resource management side of things, park staff have been busy with weed abatement, erosion control, and tree thinning/trimming. Unfortunately, the Shoshone Range, as well as many others in the surrounding area, have been hit hard with multiple forest pests. Recently, the area around Berlin was hit by the pine-needle borer, which basically defoliates the pines. This is in addition to mistletoe and beetle infestations. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has deployed traps for catching gypsy moths; results still pending. Hopefully this winter will produce a healthy snowpack to re-invigorate our forest health. Until next time, have a safe and productive summer season.



DAYTON AND WASHOE LAKE STATE PARKS*By Kim Clawson*

Around the middle of May, camp host **Russ Champion** brought in an article from the **Dayton Valley Scoop**. The article had a paragraph about Dayton State Park, beginning with "Dayton has a State Park for camping and picnicking that most people probably don't even know about. Even if they did, practically no one ever uses it." That same month, Russ was busy with campers, day users, and groups using the pavilion—including a large wedding! He had a record deposit of over a thousand dollars over the Memorial Day holiday, so we don't believe no one knows about the park or uses it!

Park Tech, **Matt Gafford**, maintenance seasonal, **Greg Fleischer**, and **Dave Pardew** have been busy fixing irrigation issues. They had a few rattlesnake encounters, issues with mud in the tunnel under the highway, and problems with the sanitary dump station. On a positive note, they had several Boy Scout and Eagle Scout projects completed that were set up by **Allen Newberry**. These included improvements to Mary's Garden (planting new trees), clearing out irrigation ditches, and building benches along the trails.

I started at Washoe Lake on May 21 and got to work with **Jenny Dawson** for about a week and a half before she left for maternity leave! She had her son, **William Patrick Dawson**, on May 29 around 9 p.m. Since then, I've been working with a great seasonal crew and trying to keep things running smoothly until she gets back in August. Jenny started the season with a record number of changes to her seasonal staff, most of which happened before I arrived. Three resignations and one termination! **Don** and **Dillon** are leaving us early in August, then we will have **Albert**, **Rebecca**, **Josh**, **Zac**, **Greg**, and **Matt** for the remainder of the season.



My first two months here were full of excitement: a double homicide happened less than a mile from the park (the suspect stayed one night in our campground before the murders happened, led a high-speed chase from Carson City to Fallon, and lost a gunfight with Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP)); we hosted another rattlesnake avoidance training; we had a full campground over Memorial Day weekend; we completed an emergency contract for our new surface pump at the Wetlands; and I killed our resident packrat with a shovel. We also had a small, lightning-related brush fire on the south side of the park and a search and rescue on our equestrian trail for a woman with a severely sprained ankle.

Washoe Lake is so low that we haven't had a lot of day use on the main side of the park, but North Ramp has been busy with kite boarders and equestrians. Thanks to the new "jet ski" ramp, Little Washoe has been very busy with people kayaking, canoeing, and jet skiing. Interpretive programs so far have included a wildflower walk, an astronomy program, and a full moon hike. We are planning more hikes, another astronomy program, and are gearing up for our Dutch oven cooking class and carp derby. **Kevin Griffiths** has been busy fixing equipment and trucks, and is working on installing our new interpretive signs at Bellevue.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK*By Katherine Ogle*

The big news this summer at Fort Churchill was the departure of **Kim Clawson**, the interpretive ranger at Buckland Station. She currently is stationed at Washoe Lake and Dayton state parks and is sorely missed here. **Kim**, we wish you all the best at your new position!

Without our fifth set of hands, volunteers have come to our rescue and done a wonderful job keeping Buckland Station open and helping visitors get the most out of their visit to Fort Churchill. A huge thank you goes out to **Bob V.**, **John H.**, **Bonnie L.**, **Beverly M.**, and **Rachel B.** for all your hard work! We couldn't have been able to do it all without your help.

Even with the changing of the horses' midstream, our summer has been busily filled up with school group tours and scout campout groups. Our Fearless Leader, **Scott Egy** has been diligently working on miscellaneous park paper work and on our ranch lease finances, as his desk is completely covered in piles of paper. Sometimes, we struggle to spot him, as he is hidden among the fast growing forest of paper piles. We survived 140 third graders and 130 combined group second and third graders, who came for tours within seven days of each other. Our newest seasonal park aid,



**Katherine Ogle** was put in charge of this massive undertaking. Thankfully, everyone survived the educational experience. Our park also hosted an astronomy program put on by the **Northern Nevada Astrology Group** with a wonderful turnout. The **Eagle Valley Muzzleloaders** camped out on our lawn, in front of the museum, and did pre-Civil War trapping (and were successful in trapping a beaver, to our ranch manager, **Jim T.**'s, delight) and shooting off Kentucky Long Rifles and mini-cannons. They also taught **Mike Dinauer** and **Katherine** how to be a proper mountain man and lady. Recently, **Mike** has been spending most his days going around the park, asking visitors to donate to his retirement fund. He will not say how successful this endeavor has been.

Several horse riding groups, and the local **Alcoholics Anonymous** and **Narcotics Anonymous** groups visited and camped out at Scout Camp, on the Carson River Ranches' side of the our park. Our returning seasonal ranger technician, **Tony C.**, must do an awful lot of driving around in circles in the "Back Forty," as we rarely see him during our shifts, but Buckland Station and the Carson River Ranch day use areas and campgrounds always look clean and tidy. Thank you, **Tony!** On June 6 through 8, Lyon County Search and Rescue used Scout Camp as their base to practice their techniques and sadly were unable to find a missing pager. On a more serious note, three weeks later, **Lyon County Search and Rescue** services were called upon for the recovery of an adult body on park property.

We had a variety of groups coming in late this summer, including two weddings: one on the Ruins Trail in July and another in the Orchard Day Use area in August.



**FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK**

Another big school group tour with students from kindergarten to high school came and **Katherine** was up to bat again. Another astronomy program commenced, the **Silver Springs Clampers** visited us again in Scout Camp (as if we hadn't recovered from their first visit in the spring), and a BMW Motorcycle Group rumbled up the road for a campout.

That's all the happenings at the Fort this summer! We hope you all had a wonderful season and if you're in the neighborhood this fall, drop by for a visit. The cottonwoods will be turning a beautiful Nevada Gold, just in time to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year of statehood.

**SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Robert Misiti*

We have been busy this season trying to keep up with summer visitation. Our total fees generated for the year reached over \$109,000. If we keep pace with last year's revenue, we should walk right past last year's total of \$129,000 without any problems. Water levels still tend to hover around 31,000 acre feet with water trickling in at 20 cubic feet per second. A 23 pound catfish was caught this summer at our main boat ramp. I saw my first Wiper. A local fisherman caught an 11 pounder, south of the Tomera Ranches; it was awesome!

We have been fortunate with the exception of a few incidents, problems at the park have been down. It seems quiet hour checks on the weekends and having the fee booth open for a second straight year has had a positive impact on the park. We appear to be getting better people coming out to the park and they are causing fewer problems.

We made improvements to our park this year. Our Coyote Cove single vault restroom was in dire need of repainting. **Jeff** took it on and made it look brand new. We got new carpeting here at our ranger station. We went from a green to a dark brown. It looks great and the office smells a lot better. It has become quite a challenge between moving furniture back and forth and operating with half an office. I am glad that project is over. Our comfort station was also re-stained. The wood now just "pops" out as you walk up to it.

We also have some fall projects we hope to get done. One of our shade structures on the southwest shores was struck by a vehicle this past summer and we hope to fix it this fall. We have another shade structure at the east campground needing repair. Our heater in our comfort station quit, so we have to get this fixed before winter comes. Our boat dock at the main boat ramp has areas where it's starting to show its age. For as much use it gets every year, an improvement investment for our boaters is probably a good idea.

Our interpretive events had good success this year. Our Dutch oven cobbler pie presentation and our mountain man breakfast were excellent additions. **Paula Ault** and staff did a great job showing our customers how fun and how good Dutch oven cooking can be.



**Ann Jayo** did a good job with her Land Animals of South Fork Presentation. **NDOW** continued their support with their Swaison Hawk and Skins and Skulls presentations. All of our presentations so far brought people of all ages and has been very encouraging for the park.

South Fork is grateful to the parks helping us out this year. **Steve Gray** and **Jim Hawkins** came down from their parks to be a part of the hiring panel for our new ranger. For those who haven't heard, **Ann Jayo** was hired as our new ranger. She has been busy learning the job and goes to

POST next year. **Tony Beauregard** gave us 3,000 UF3's and generously loaned a seasonal to help us get through the months of August and September. **Andrew Bass** was quick and helped us out by giving us some of his annual receipt books and multi-use/boating permits. For a while we were selling an average of 20 multi-use permits a deposit. **Andrew** also agreed to look after the park while I go down and help out Big Bend of the Colorado for the River Regatta this August. We thank them for their support and look forward in seeing you again this fall.

**WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Andrew Bass*

Another summer following a dry winter left Wild Horse Reservoir very low. Our visitation has not suffered quite as much as the revenue, because the boat launch is out of the water. The water is similar to any other in August, algae beginning to form, as well as getting warmer. The fish also seem to be following a regular yearly pattern even though our water level is a fraction of capacity. The limits on types, sizes, and quantities have been lifted since

spring with some anglers hauling away large numbers of fish in anticipation of a die off. So far there has not been any fish dying off and with our daily thunderstorms, it looks favorable for the remaining fish.

The slower summer allowed us to do several extra summer projects. We set up a site for our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection unit that turned out pretty nice. Our AIS inspector is able to stay shaded all day as he waits for boats. We were also able to resurface the blacktop around the residences. We will have to wait for winter to see how it holds up, but it sure looks better so far. The collapsing shop yard fence was removed and replaced with a new chain link fence; now we are working on the time consuming part of inserting the plastic slats for privacy. We had a chance to organize everything in the yard, put it on pallets and can quickly move it around thanks to forks on the skid steer. A big thanks to **Jeff McKovich** who was able to come up from South Fork and help with several projects.



**WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA**

**(con't)** Fall hunters are beginning to trickle in as they set their sights on big game in the area. Archery season just started August 1, while others are out trying to find the animals in anticipation of their season later on. Our interpretive programs still seem to be a hit with almost normal attendance despite reduced visitation. We provided a variety including plant and animal life in the area, flint and steel, and an array of campfire goodies. Time to get back outside, everyone have a great season.



buildings and campgrounds at Beaver Dam were relatively undamaged. Our agency is quickly doing all they can to manage the damage and open the park to visitation once again. Our crew of employees continue to work hard to maintain the parks and provide a safe, comfortable place to visit and stay for our park patrons. We welcome ALL!!!

**SOUTHERN REGION PARKS****BAVER DAM AND CATHERAL GORGE STATE PARKS**

*By Marcia Wadsworth*

May was a very busy month for Cathedral Gorge, Beaver Dam and the other parks in our area. We had many school kids for end-of-school parties and fun. Memorial Day weekend found the parks teeming with families and friends making their first summer trips. School finished and the children were happy! Every weekend in June found us hosting or helping with a major event. National Trails Day, on June 7, we had hikes and events in all of the parks with rangers leading fun-filled adventures. June 14 was Nevada Free Fishing day and Echo Canyon hosted a derby. One lucky little ten year old boy, **Armando Garcia**, from Las Vegas caught a \$10,000 tagged fish. What an exciting day for this young man! The spectators and other fishermen oohed and awed at his special luck. The event sported a large and enthusiastic crowd and everyone had a wonderful time.

The **Beaver Dam 49er Gravel Grinder** was especially fun with good participation. Twelve riders enjoyed the 35 mile mountain bike ride, with a yummy lunch, snacks, and drinks provided. The riders were all thrilled with the way things went and how the support teams were organized and helpful. Many said they would return next year and bring friends and family to see the park and enjoy the serenity of the ride.



So far, July has been hot and humid with a bit of much needed rain. Some of our employees took vacations so they can come back renewed and ready to jump into the Panaca Sesquicentennial celebration. At our booth, we'll give out information about the parks and advertise upcoming events. We will also participate with the same type of booth at the Lincoln County Fair on August 7-9 in Panaca.

Beaver Dam suffered a devastating fire caused by dry lightning on July 2. It burned for several days and damaged acres of land in and around the park and in the small quaint pioneer town of Barclay, Nevada. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) fire crews were plentiful and with some luck from a bit of rain and higher humidity, were able to contain the fire. Luckily the

**ECHO CANYON AND SPRING VALLEY STATE PARKS**

*By Josh Rhein*

Spring was busy and fun at both Spring Valley and Echo Canyon. The **Kid's Fishing Derby** at Echo was a big success this year. Despite the heat we had a good turnout and most importantly, we had four tagged fish caught. Three weren't worth the big prize, but one of the fish was worth \$10,000! We were happy to see a ten year old, who was fishing with his family, catch the big fish. The event is all about getting kids into fishing and getting families to spend some quality time together on the lake; we were successful in both regards. The new RV campground project is moving right along. It has been interesting to watch the area transform over the summer. Before long the campground will be done, and the ranger won't recognize the returning quiet.

At Spring Valley, the water may be dropping, but that doesn't mean we haven't been any less busy. Between a steady flow of visitors and a number of small park projects, we've managed to keep busy. This 's bass fishing has really taken off. A bass as large as 7.88 pounds was caught this summer, and many more in the 4-6.5 pound range. Looking ahead, we're planning on a **One Fly Fishing** tournament in September. The tournament was fun in the past, and we're hoping for another good turnout this year. We also acquired an 11'x20' inflatable movie screen for showing movies this fall and winter. We also made a nice area to show the movies at Spring Valley. We were advised though, that park staff will not be allowed to show any home movies on the screen.

**VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK**

*By Tracy Strassburg*

Despite being in the midst of our "slower" season, it's been a fairly hectic summer for Valley of Fire staff. With two rangers attending Emergency Management Training classes twice per week, much of the staff enjoying vacation time, and being short one field seasonal park aide, there have definitely been numerous short-staffed days. It has been quite impressive to see so many people constantly going above and beyond to ensure things get done.

Valley of Fire continues to see increased visitation during the summer months. Due in part to slightly cooler than normal temperatures for the first 2-3 weeks of the month, visitation in June increased by 45% from last year. Camping in June greatly increased as well by 57% over June 2013. So far this year, overall visitation is up 15% from 2013.



#4162  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Nevada Division of State Parks  
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5005  
Carson City, NV 89701-5248

Return Service Requested

#### **VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK (con't)**

Gift shop sales also continues to rise, with sales in May up 18% from last year, and year-to-date sales up almost 10% over 2013. The gift shop is currently on pace to amass over \$500,000 in sales by the end of the year! Thank you to the entire gift shop staff for their hard work and constant efforts to improve the store.

We were pleasantly surprised when our camp host, **Jason Lee**, decided to remain here through the scorching summer months. **Jason** works incredibly hard to keep the campgrounds in excellent condition, and has recently begun helping out at the visitor center as well. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated camp host.

With fall quickly approaching, we are already well into preparations for many of our programs, such as the Halloween Jubilee (October 31), the Valley of Fire Car Show (November 8), and a Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Educator course sponsored by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) from November 10-14. If anyone is interested in attending the course, which will provide participants with a certification allowing them to teach LNT trainer courses, please contact **Sandra Hufford** or **Chris Johnson**. As of August 3, nine spots are still available. Hope everyone has had an enjoyable and productive summer!

#### **PERSONNEL**

*By Anke Simpson*

Effective July 1 classified employees, not topped out at a step 10, can receive their Merit Step Increases (MSI) again on either their anniversary date or their last promotion date. Seasonals receive MSIs after working 2,088 hours. Furlough requirements for FY15 are: fulltime employees take 48 hours and part-time employees and seasonals take a prorated amount.

We are currently recruiting for the commissioned Park Ranger II position at Ward Charcoal Ovens. The list has been received and interviews will be held in the middle of August. The vacant Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at the Southern Region Office has been reclassified to a Facility Manager for the Southern Region and recruitment has been requested. An NPD-19 is also in the works to reclassify the vacant non-commissioned Park Ranger II position at Buckland Station to a Park Interpreter.

Promotions: **Kim Clawson** promoted from her non-commissioned Park Ranger II position at Buckland Station to the newly reclassified Park Interpreter position at Washoe Lake on 5/8/14. On 5/27/14 **Ben Plummer** accepted a promotion from his seasonal Park Aid I position at Valley of Fire to the permanent Administrative Assistant II position at Spring Mountain Ranch. **Dale Conner** promoted from his commissioned Park Ranger III position at Lake Tahoe to the commissioned Law Enforcement and Training Specialist position at the division office on 6/9/14. The vacant commissioned Park Ranger III position at Lake Tahoe opened up an opportunity for **Allen Wooldridge** to promote from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Ward Charcoal Ovens to this position on 7/7/14.

New Permanent Employees: On 6/9/14 **Ann Jayo** started as a commissioned Park Ranger I at South Fork and **Michael Burke** accepted the Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Spring Mountain Ranch. **David Low** started in the Park Interpreter position at Spring Mountain Ranch on 6/23/14. **Amy Smith** accepted the new Retail Storekeeper I position at Valley of Fire and will start on 8/18/14.